

Grandpa's 1892 token is a legacy of love

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE answers to more questions from Tribune readers.

Q—My grandfather died in June. Among his belongings was a most unusual 1892 coin the size of a quarter. On the backside is an elaborately engraved letter "G" superimposed over the letters "RD." What do we have? —D.T., Harvey

A—The piece is probably a love token. Late in the last century, a young man would try to impress his fiancee by having their initials engraved on a coin. A skilled craftsman would file off the coin's tails-side design, etch the initials in the form of beautiful monograms, and possibly even cut the coin into the shape of a heart.

Q—A few days ago, I found three old \$10 bills at the bank where I work. Much to my surprise, I discovered that the words "Redeemable in gold on demand at the United States Treasury" were printed on each bill (series 1928-B Federal Reserve notes). Where can I go to get my gold? —M.G., Highland Park

A—Nowhere. Although the bills are "legal money," the government will

no longer exchange them for gold. The notation you refer to was last printed on Federal Reserve notes in 1934.

On currency made today, the government promises only that the bills are "legal tender for all debts, public and private."

Q—In my safe-deposit box, I am holding a nickel that has the heads-side design on both sides. A coin collector said my two-headed nickel is a worthless gimmick. How can that be? —J.G., Chicago

A—It's virtually impossible for the United States Mint to produce a two-headed or two-tailed coin. All such coins in existence were likely produced by enterprising businessmen who peddle their handiwork in novelty stores and elsewhere. The coins have no collector value.

Q—Is it possible to order San Francisco-mint Anthony dollars for \$1 each from the United States Mint? I want at least 10 of them. —R.S., Chicago

A—No, but you can ask a friend or relative to send you the coins. "S"-mint Anthony dollars are readily available from banks west of the Rocky Mountains. Eventually, the coins should turn up in circulation in the Chicago area.